

Name _____ **Tragedy**



Tragedy

The Greek philosopher Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) wrote about tragedy in his famous study of Greek dramatic art, *Poetics*. He believed that tragedy had a specific purpose. What was it?

Read Aristotle's definition of tragedy. Then, referring to the numbers in brackets, explain what each part of his definition means.

A tragedy is the imitation of an action that is serious and also, as having magnitude, complete in itself(1); in appropriate and pleasurable language(2);...in a dramatic rather than narrative form(3); with incidents arousing pity and fear(4), wherewith to accomplish a catharsis of these emotions(5).

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

